

ASQUITH'S FAILURE
ANGERS LABOR MEN

All Negotiations Being Broken Off. Minimum Wage Bill Is Pushed Through as Last Resort.

CABINET WINS: 213 TO 48

Miners' Representatives in Parliament Vote Against Government's Measure to Break Deadlock—Thousands Near Starvation.

(By Cable to The Tribune.) London, March 27.—The long and wearisome negotiations in which Premier Asquith has been engaged with the coal owners on the one hand and the miners on the other came to an end yesterday, and the nation now stands face to face with that crisis which Sir Edward Grey at the beginning of the strike declared would be the greatest catastrophe in England's national history.

The government's minimum wage bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons early this morning by a vote of 213 to 48. There was a scene of great excitement, and Premier Asquith was loudly cheered by all the members. The House of Lords reassembled at 2:50 o'clock this morning to receive the bill, which, on the motion of Lord Herschell, passed its first reading. The proceedings were purely formal and the house immediately adjourned. The bill will doubtless be passed into law to-day.

The delay in pressing the bill was caused by Cabinet dissensions. Lloyd George and Sidney Buxton favored the two shillings and five pence concession, but both the Lord Chancellor and Lord Morley threatened to resign if any figures were put into the bill.

While Mr. Asquith was supported by a large majority of his colleagues, it was necessary to make a final effort for peace between the owners and the Miners' Federation. When the negotiations failed the bill without any rigid minimum rate was the last resource, and it was taken up not only without enthusiasm but with the apprehension that a considerable group of Radicals in sympathy with Mr. Lloyd George might join the Labor members.

The Prime Minister's anxiety and weariness were evident when he explained the situation in the House of Commons. The division in the Cabinet itself had become an intolerable source of weakness, and the feeble bill which neither the masters nor the men wanted was thrust upon Parliament when there was no expectation in any quarter that it would facilitate a settlement.

What is really operating to bring about a restoration of confidence is the exhaustion of the miners' organization. The strike funds have run dry, savings bank deposits have been drawn upon, shopkeepers are cutting off their credits and pawnbrokers form the only class in the mining districts which is doing a profitable business.

Non-unionists are likely to lead the way back to the mines as soon as there is a prospect of adequate protection, and the strike leaders will be left to justify the vast expenditure of union funds and the shrinkage in the savings of the working people.

Unless the Federation of Transport Workers can be drawn into the conflict prematurely it is probable that the minimum wage bill, after being accepted sullenly and reluctantly by the trade unionists, will be the basis of a resumption of business in all the mines. In another ten days London's reserves of coal will be exhausted.

London, March 26.—The Prime Minister, in the House of Commons to-day, announced that the government had failed to terminate the coal strike. "We have done our best with thoroughness and impartiality," said Mr. Asquith, "and it is with profound disappointment that I have to confess to the house that all our efforts have been unavailing."

In a final appeal to the disputants, the Prime Minister said: "If at this fifth minute of the eleventh hour, the parties cannot come to a reasonable arrangement on a matter of relatively small proportions they will have a very serious account to render to the country. The government has done all it can."

Scotch Miners Boost Demands.

The government's persistent efforts to secure an outside settlement collapsed in most dramatic fashion. Premier Asquith had a greatest difficulty in getting the owners and the men to meet, and it was only finally on the earnest persuasion of Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, that the owners consented to confer with the men's representatives.

The meeting lasted but a few minutes. The representative of the Scotch miners put forward a demand for a minimum of 5 shillings 9 pence for men and 3 shillings for boys, whereupon the owners, protesting that they were always being faced by fresh demands, angrily broke up the conference and quitted the room, leaving Premier Asquith, Foreign Secretary Grey and Chancellor Lloyd George thunderstruck and crestfallen at the unexpected turn of events.

That Premier Asquith's handling of the crisis is far from meeting the unanimous approval of his own party, was evidenced by the division lists on the amendment moved by William Braze, Labor M. P. for South Glamorgan, that the minimum daily rates of five shillings for men and two shillings for boys be incorporated in the bill, which was defeated 226 to 82. The minority which voted against the government comprised forty-five Liberals, as well as the members of the Labor party. The Nationalists abstained from voting, and the Unionists voted with the government.

A large section of the Liberals—and it is even rumored that some members of the government—feel that Mr. Asquith has made a mistake in refusing to permit the insertion of any minimum figures in the bill, as it was almost certain that

STORIES

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Helen Ward Banks, Mary Stewart Cutting, Dynamite Johnny O'Brien and Edward Riddle Padgett, and an article about stagestruck girls by Marguerite Clark in the next Sunday Magazine of the

New-York Tribune

THREE BUILDINGS IN FLAMES

Five-Alarm Fire on Broadway Still Raging at 3:30 A. M.

Fire which started in the left building at No. 623 Broadway early this morning spread to the buildings at No. 625 and No. 627, and was not under control at 3:30 o'clock this morning.

The damage was estimated at upward of \$250,000 before the flames had leaped across to either No. 625 or No. 627, and when these other buildings were caught by them it was figured that the loss would probably exceed twice that amount.

Two alarms had been turned in before Chief Kenlon reached the scene, and when he saw that the left building was filled with inflammable material, many of its occupants being millinery and hat concerns, he immediately sent in two more alarms, and a fifth alarm followed when the flames leaped out of an upper story window of No. 623 and jumped into the adjoining building.

Fire Commissioner Johnson was routed out of bed then, and soon was on the scene of what he said was apparently the most stubborn fire of his experience as Commissioner.

The fire started in the factory on the third floor of the Artistic Millinery Company, and some of the other firms in this building which were burned out were the Rosen & Hermann Company, shirt manufacturers; Selters & Co. and the Miller-Allaire Company, hat manufacturers.

82 DEAD IN COAL MINE

Only Eleven Men Escape from West Virginia Shaft.

Welch, W. Va., March 26.—Eighty-two men were killed to-day by a gas explosion in the Jed Coal and Coke Company mine at Jed, W. Va., a half dozen miles from here. Only eleven men escaped from here. One of those died within an hour after being brought to the surface.

To-night thirty-three bodies have been located, and the rescuers hoped to have them out shortly. Exploding parties expect to have all the bodies out by noon. When the explosion took place probably only the eleven men working at the foot of the shaft had a chance for their lives. They readily made their way up the cages which were not damaged.

State mine inspectors promptly organized rescue parties and began the exploration of levels. As the gases were cleared out and they began searches of the lower levels they immediately began to come upon miners, killed almost instantly. Other mines near by sent experienced foremen to lead hundreds of volunteer rescuers, who flocked to the scene as the news spread about the countryside.

The mine was inspected last Friday and pronounced safe. Preliminary investigations to-day have not divulged the cause of the explosion, but some local mine men are inclined to regard it as a physical phenomenon. Barometers in this vicinity have been showing unusually low readings for the last week without the usual atmospheric changes.

MARITAL WOE BARS VOTES

Separated from Wives, 1,600 Philadelphians Disqualified.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Philadelphia, March 26.—Through a ruling to-day by the County Commissioners of Registration, approximately 1,600 men, all legalized voters, will be deprived of their votes because they are separated from their wives. The commissioners in one case to-day ruled that a man's residence is the place of domicile of his wife, if he is married, and that he must register from her abode.

If this ruling is upheld by the courts it will have the effect of forcing men to go back to their wives from whom they are separated or lose their votes. It has been estimated that there are about 1,600 misnamed couples in Philadelphia, and among the men are numerous prominent politicians.

The case which brought about the ruling was that of William F. Rorke, a local attorney. Mr. Rorke is not separated from his wife, who resides with their daughter in Germantown, but he wished to vote from a house on North 7th street. The commissioners immediately ruled that he must vote from Germantown, or not at all.

C. W. MORSE NOT IN DANGER

Banker Said To Be in Comparative Good Health.

Florence, Italy, March 26.—Charles W. Morse, who was released from the federal prison at Atlanta recently on commutation of sentence, and concerning whose physical condition alarming reports have been published, is said to be in comparatively good health.

Mr. and Mrs. Morse are staying at the Grand Hotel here.

WIFE SEES AVIATOR KILLED

German Plunges to Earth from Altitude of 300 Feet.

Düsseldorf, March 26.—The German aviator Klein, while making a flight to-day, fell from a height of three hundred feet and was killed. The aviator's wife and child witnessed the accident, the cause of which is not known.

The death of Klein constitutes the twenty-fifth aviation fatality since January 1 last, and the 126th since the death of Lieutenant Reiffridge, in 1908. The last previous victim was Sub-Lieutenant Altkornoff, of the Russian army, and his assistant, who were killed at Sevastopol Saturday last.

Poland Water Promotes Health. Avoid contagion by drinking purest water in world. Office, 139 Broadway. Tel. Mad. 84 4743.

MAY FIND BRANDT CASE
INDICTMENTS AFTER ALL

Some of Jurors Standing Against Taking Any Action Have Changed Since Monday.

MRS. SCHIFF BEFORE JURY

Husband Will Be Heard To-day, but Fight to Get His Lawyer, Howard S. Gans, Called Is Lost.

Mrs. Mortimer L. Schiff went before the grand jury investigating the Brandt case yesterday and Mortimer L. Schiff will be heard to-day. A hard fight was made in the grand jury room to have Howard S. Gans called also, but, though a sufficient vote was mustered to permit Schiff to be heard, the line-up could not be held together for Gans.

The question of hearing Schiff was taken up immediately after Mrs. Schiff had testified. Some members of the grand jury asked the District Attorney if Judge Crane's opinion on the immunity question prohibited them from calling Schiff. They were told that the opinion held that if Schiff and Gans were allowed to testify before the grand jury under oath they would receive immunity from prosecution for conspiracy, but that the question of whether either one or both of them should be called was left to the decision of the grand jury.

With this explanation the struggle began, and lasted for three-quarters of an hour. The attempt was first made to have both Schiff and Gans called. Some of the jurors who have stood in the last two weeks with the group against indictments had changed since Monday, however, and refused to put themselves in a position where no action could be taken on the case. The final vote was eleven to ten in favor of calling Schiff, while the proposition to call Gans was turned down.

Two Jurors Did Not Vote.

One member of the grand jury was absent yesterday and one left the room before the vote was taken. Those who voted in favor of hearing Schiff were Henry Osterweide, Alexander Weinberg, Moritz Kornard, C. J. Wittenberg, Emil Frank, Moritz L. Ernst, Benjamin Stern, Joseph Cohen, Maurice Comprecht, Samuel Fry and James Buckley, the foreman.

After the vote was taken District Attorney Whitman was asked to request the appearance of Mortimer L. Schiff before the grand jury, provided that he would waive immunity. Through Paul D. Cravath, his attorney, Mr. Schiff said that he would appear at 2 o'clock this afternoon and testify, after waiving immunity. Judge Crane's grand jury under oath Schiff would receive immunity automatically under Section 284 of the Penal Law, regardless of whether he waived immunity.

The situation now is, under the changed temper of the grand jury, that indictments may be found, but because of the immunity provision in Section 284 of the Penal Law they will hold against only one of those indicted. A conspiracy indictment requires that at least two persons shall be charged with the crime. The grand jury has put itself in a position here it may hold against one of those indicted and the other will go free. This was understood yesterday, though the ten who for the last two weeks have been fighting against any indictments have not abandoned their efforts.

No Subpoena for Mrs. Schiff.

The arrangement for Mrs. Schiff to testify was made by Paul D. Cravath on Friday. In accordance with this arrangement she appeared at the Criminal Courts Building yesterday afternoon as a voluntary witness, no subpoena having been issued for her. Mr. Cravath was with her and waited outside the grand jury room during the fifteen minutes she was on the stand.

Mrs. Schiff was nervous when she took the stand, but she soon regained her composure, and though some of the questions asked were searching and confusing she realized that they were asked for the purpose of setting at rest any rumor that might have been spread attacking her, and she is understood to have made an excellent witness. She testified as to the circumstances under which Brandt was employed and her slight acquaintance with him as a servant. She denied meeting Brandt at Sherry's or any other place, and denied giving him the key by which he says he entered the house, and denied in the most positive way his stories regarding her.

Her story of Brandt's discharge corroborated that told by her husband in his published statement. She told of receiving the letter which caused Brandt's discharge, of her fright on getting it, and said that she looked her up in the nursery with the children until Mr. Schiff got home, when she gave him the letter and Brandt was immediately discharged. Of the happenings on the night Brandt entered the house she said she knew little. She had not known of the assault on Mr. Schiff until he told her about it after Brandt had left the house.

There were three other witnesses before the grand jury yesterday. Two of them, Nathan Goldfarb and Frank C. Cole, were called to testify concerning Brandt's character. Goldfarb said that he was arrested on March 11, 1907, and locked up with Brandt that night in a cell in Police Headquarters. Brandt, Goldfarb said, told him that he had gone to the Schiff house to rob it, and had entered by the coal hole. Cole was warden of Dannenbora penitentiary until a year ago. He said that he knew little about the case. Brandt had been a good prisoner. He had talked a good deal about his case and had said both that he got into the house by the servants' entrance and by a key to the front door. Cole said he was satisfied that Brandt was a liar.

The other witness yesterday was John Wesley Howe, assistant city editor of "The American." The grand jury hopes to finish the case to-day.

LAST WITNESSES IN BRANDT CASE.
Mrs. Mortimer L. Schiff, Who Testified Before the Grand Jury Yesterday.

MORTIMER L. SCHIFF, Who Is to Appear Before the Grand Jury To-day.

STORMY SCENES MARK
SUBWAY BILLS' HEARING

700 New Yorkers Crowd Capitol to Show Approval of Proposed Rapid Transit System.

LABOR MAN THROWN OUT

Chairman Willcox, Prendergast, McAneny and Corporation Counsel Watson Favor Measures.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Albany, March 26.—Seven hundred residents of New York City, including the representatives of eighty civic organizations and many prominent officials, appeared at a hearing this afternoon before the Senate Cities Committee in favor of the Wagner bills to enable the carrying out of the plan for extending the subway, recently agreed on between the city officials, the Public Service Commission and the representatives of the Interborough and Brooklyn Rapid Transit companies. It was intended to have the hearing in the Senate chamber, but on account of the large number present the committee was obliged to adjourn to the Assembly chamber, and that was not large enough to seat all present.

The hearing gave rise to two or three stormy scenes. One man had to be forcibly ejected, and another was obliged to apologize to Senator Travis, whom he accused of being in league with the Coney Island & Brooklyn Railroad Company, before he was permitted to continue his speech. Opposition to the bill was headed by Clarence J. Shearn, who appeared for William Randolph Hearst, together with the representatives of labor organizations and a few taxpayers' associations.

L. S. Bedford, known as the "Minute Man," who said he represented Typographical Union No. 6, was the man thrown out of the chamber. He appeared not only against the bills, but against the others in opposition, declaring that Hearst and his representatives were the minions of Thomas F. Ryan. His ire was aroused when Timothy Healy, appearing for the International Order of Stationary Firemen, was called to speak.

"I'll be damned if I'll let him speak ahead of me!" shouted Mr. Bedford. "The union I represent started this thing and I now have the right to speak."

Chamber in an Uproar.

Senator Frawley endeavored to persuade him to be quiet, but he only became more boisterous, until the sergeant-at-arms was called on to put him out. That official was shoved back into the center of the chamber two or three times by the irate "minute man." In the mean time the chamber was in an uproar, and Senator Stillwell finally took a hand in the struggle with Bedford. The latter was half carried, half pushed,

Continued on fourth page.

MOB LAW IN ROCK ISLAND

Three Killed and Nine Wounded in Attack on Police Station.

SHERIFF CALLS FOR TROOPS

People Incensed at Mayor, Charging Him with Ousting His Political Enemies.

Rock Island, Ill., March 26.—Three persons were killed and nine were injured to-night in a riot which grew out of strained relations which have existed for several days between Mayor Schriver and some of his opponents. Several hundred persons were in the mob that to-night surrounded police headquarters, where two of the leaders of disorders that had previously occurred were detained.

Bricks were thrown and windows of the police station were smashed. Mayor Schriver, directing the police squad, ordered the officers to charge the mob. Shots were fired by the police and a number of men were seen to fall. This caused the rioters temporarily to withdraw.

Three men were picked up dead. Nine were so badly wounded they were hurried to a hospital. After the dead and wounded had been removed the mob reorganized, and one of the leaders directed the crowd to a hardware store for the purpose of breaking down the doors and securing a fresh supply of arms. This move was checked by a squad of police which was at the hardware store when the mob arrived.

In response to Sheriff Bruner's appeal to Governor Deneen to rush troops to the city several companies are expected before morning.

Mayor Schriver recently began a campaign to rid the city of undesirable persons, so he announced; but his enemies declared he wanted to oust his political enemies.

Mutterings of discontent have been growing for several days. The other day the editor of a weekly newspaper published an article which denounced Mayor Schriver and the Mayor ordered that the issue of the paper be suppressed.

Announcement of the publication was made at a mass meeting of the opponents of the Mayor, and after the meeting a large crowd went to the newspaper office to get copies of the paper. The Mayor's opponents were angered by the fact that Mayor Schriver had physically chastized the editor of the paper for previous editorial aspersions. The police ordered the crowd from in front of the newspaper office, and several arrests were made.

To-day the body of Frank B. Potts, of Winona Junction, Wis., was found in a hallway. It was reported that he had been killed in the disturbance in front of the newspaper office. Feeling ran high and a mass meeting was called for to-night. Petitions for the recall of Mayor Schriver and Commissioner Hart were circulated at the meeting. A crowd gathered after the meeting, swearing vengeance for the attacks made on the crowd at the newspaper office. Some of the rioters declared that the police had murdered Potts, although physicians to-night announced that the man probably died of apoplexy.

LEGISLATORS WANT PASSES

Rhode Island House Adopts Public Service Bill.

Providence, March 26.—A public service bill, the feature of which is a clause making it obligatory for all railroads in the state to furnish passes to state officers and members of the Legislature, passed the House to-day by a viva voce vote, after a long debate. The bill provides for the creation of a public service commission of three, which has liberal authority in regulating public service corporations.

So easy and delightful! Spencer's Toric eye-glasses with "Blink" guards, 1 Maiden Lane. —Adv.

TAFT DELEGATES
HERE WIN BY 3 TO 1

Chairman Barnes Estimates Only Seven Out of Ninety in Entire State Elected for Colonel Roosevelt.

BIG CONFUSION ALL OVER CITY

Delay in Delivering Ballots to Polling Places Cause of Extraordinary Irregularities—Dix Is Asked to Declare Election in Brooklyn Invalid in Consequence.

Reports from the entire state last night indicated that Mr. Taft had carried all except eight delegates out of the ninety to the Republican National Convention.

State Chairman Barnes said his estimate was not more than seven for Mr. Roosevelt.

The votes in the contest in this city gave the Taft candidates a plurality of more than 3 to 1 over the Roosevelt candidates, but the polling was so irregular, owing to the wildest sort of confusion arising from late distribution of the ballots, that both voting and returns were highly incomplete.

The Roosevelt court motions were said to have delayed the printer in completing the voting forms, through causing changes to be made up to practically the last day, and for this reason ballots reached many polling places so late as practically to exclude many from voting who were unable to wait long enough.

It was stated in Brooklyn that Governor Dix had been asked to declare the election in Kings County invalid on account of the troubles arising there, as in other boroughs, from the delay in the delivery of the ballots, and that the leaders there who had been in communication with him had received an assurance from him that he would seek remedy through the Legislature. The Kings County Republican Executive Committee will meet to-day to decide on what action to take.

The wildest sort of confusion occurred

yesterday when the first official primary was held in this city. The ballots were not delivered until late in a majority of the Assembly districts, and in some polling places, particularly in the outlying districts, no ballots were received at all until the polls were closed.

It was evident last night that the Roosevelt managers were preparing to make the most out of this mix-up over the ballots and would contest the election on the ground that many voters had not had the opportunity of voting. The Roosevelt managers instructed their watchers in the various polling places where the ballots were late to take the names and addresses of those who came and were about to go away again because the ballots had not arrived. They asked such men to make a statement that they had been unable to vote because of the lack of ballots, preparing later to get affidavits to be used in court actions.

There was much speculation last night as to just what effect on the election of organization committees, as well as delegates to the national convention, the delay in the ballots would have. In cases where the ballots did not arrive at all it was a question as to whether the committee and delegates voted for in that particular district could be legally chosen.

Wants Legislative Relief.

Charles H. Duell, chairman of the Roosevelt city committee, declared that Governor Dix ought to call on the Legislature at once to pass a Presidential preferential primary law, and have another primary to choose national delegates before the Republican National Convention.

Abraham S. Gilbert, chairman of the law committee of the Republican County Committee, said that the law provided that whenever the official ballots were not furnished unofficial ballots, printed or written in much the manner of the official ballots, could be used. In some districts an attempt was made to write such ballots, but this was hard to do because the ballot was so complicated.

In some of the districts in Queens and the Bronx the ballots did not arrive until after 9 o'clock, at which time the law says the polls must close. Certain election districts in the 3d Assembly District in Manhattan did not receive any ballots at all. In the 16th Assembly District some of the ballots did not arrive until 8 o'clock; some in the 25th District came shortly after 7 o'clock. In the 27th District it was after 6:30 o'clock when the ballots arrived.

It was stated at Republican headquarters that in certain Assembly districts in the 23d Congress District the names of the candidates to the national convention were left off the ballot altogether.

Roosevelt Movement Blamed. J. G. Britt, president of the Board of Election, declared that the trouble was caused by illegal actions brought by the Roosevelt city committee and by reason of the fact that the ballots were so large that it took more time to print them than usual. He favored a law that would make changes in the ballot impossible after a certain date.

The statement of Mr. Gilbert was as follows: In every case where it was reported that the ballots had not been delivered, the inspectors were advised that unofficial ballots might be used. For this purpose the inspectors were advised to send to the nearest polling place, having sample ballots containing the names of the same candidates, and to use them in the same manner as official ballots. No person should have cast his vote by reason of the absence of the official ballot.

This situation is covered by section 81 of the election law, which reads as follows: "If for any cause, the official ballots for any party shall not be provided as required by law at any polling place, or if the official ballots, printed or written, made as nearly as practicable in the form of the official ballot, may be used."

The only section of the law having any application to a case where no vote was accepted by the board in section 86, and that section appears to limit the power of the court to order a new primary in case of fraud to such an extent that it is impossible to determine the true results of such primaries.

President Britt of the Board of Election was overwhelmed with complaints and inquiries as to why the ballots had not arrived in various places. Late last night he made the following statement:

I discovered Monday night that a mistake had been made in some of the ballots and the wrong station houses had been put on them. I put automobiles out all last night and this morning recalling these ballots. I